

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 (canceled).

4. (new) Apparatus for binding wire having a predetermined diameter around bales comprising a wire magazine for supplying said wire, a feeder for feeding and stretching said supplied wire, a guide for guiding said wire from said feeder around said bale, a wire cutter and twister for cutting said wire and twisting together the ends of said cut wire, and a take-up unit for taking up a loop in said wire obtained upon said stretching of said wire around said bale, said take-up unit comprising a longitudinally extending wire take-up space comprising a pair of long sides formed by a pair of walls and a pair of short sides, said pair of walls being separated by a first predetermined distance adapted to accept said wire having said predetermined diameter but not sufficient to accept a double strand of said wire, said pair of short sides separated by a second predetermined distance adapted to accept a loop of said wire without being folded, said longitudinally extending wire take-up space at one of said pair of short sides comprising a wire guide space which is wider than said first predetermined distance and formed by grooves in at least one of said pair of walls.

5. (new) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said wire take-up space has a substantially rectangular shape.

6. (new) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said bales comprise pulp bales.

7. (new) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said wire magazine comprises a coil of said wire.

8. (new) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said wire take-up space has a predetermined length sufficiently long to accommodate a plurality of successive wire loops therein.

9. (new) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said grooves in at least one of said pair of walls has a width approximately equal to said predetermined diameter and a depth of from about 0.5 to 1.5 times said predetermined diameter.

REMARKS

The above-noted cancellation of claims 1-3, and addition of new claims 4-9, as well as the submission of a revised Abstract and revisions to the Specification, are respectfully submitted prior to initiation of the prosecution of this application in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The above-noted new claims are respectfully submitted in order to more clearly and appropriately claim the subject matter which applicant considers to constitute his inventive contribution. No new matter is included in these amendments. In addition, the revisions to the Abstract and Specification are submitted in order to clarify and correct the Abstract and Specification and to conform them to all of the requirements of U.S. practice. No new matter is included in these amendments.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that these amendments now be entered, and that prosecution on the merits of this application now be initiated. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe such action can be taken, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any objections which he may have.